

L—BLOOD GROUPS IN SOME KENYA TRIBES

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This communication embodies the results of A, A₂, B₀, MNS, and Rh tests on the Luo and Kikuyu tribes of Kenya, together with P tests on the Kikuyu and ABO tests on the Masai. The specimens were collected as part of the anthropological investigation carried out while one author (A.C.A.) was a member of the Oxford University Mount Kenya Expedition, 1949.

The only previous anthropological blood group study carried out in this area is the work of Elsdon-Dew (1939) on the ABO groups of some East African native populations.

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The Luo and Kikuyu are two of the largest tribes in the country and although neither is "racially pure" they differ in language and custom and are generally believed to differ in origin. The Luo may be taken as representative of the Nilotic group and the Kikuyu of the Eastern Bantu.

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The subjects were hospital patients and groups of labourers, the Luo from Nairobi and Nakuru districts, the Kikuyu from Nairobi, Kiambu and Embu districts. Individuals who were tested were unrelated to one another and were not aware of having any forebears from other tribes. Specimens were taken in the form of clotted blood by means of "Venula" and sent by air to London. Specimens were taken without mishap or complication from 128 Luo and 124 Kikuyu. Specimens were also taken from a further 61 Luo and 111 Kikuyu, but owing to an unsatisfactory system of labelling became mixed in transit. As will be shown below, the Luo and the Kikuyu differ little in their blood group frequencies and the mixed specimens differ little from either of the pure batches. Moreover, the total number of

(1736)

[p. 55b]